

Comment Made By The Director Of The Information  
Bureau In An Interview With The Foreign  
Correspondents

Oct. 6, 1937

My attention has been drawn to an editorial of the New-York Times of October 4, purporting to impress its readers as if the Spokesman of the Japanese Foreign Office issued a hollow statement on October 1 without giving any facts. Such a comment appearing in a newspaper of wide reputation is to be regretted. When the Spokesman of the Foreign Office formally gives out a statement, he is basing it on actual facts, although he may not give detailed explanations on each of the individual points mentioned.

I suggest first to note this: What were the respective strengths of the Japanese and Chinese forces when the hostilities took place in Shanghai on August 13? The Chinese forces numbered well over 30,000 against a small unit of Japanese marines counting not more than three thousand. Even by stretching our imagination, we can not conceive of such a small Japanese unit making an attack on the overwhelmingly large Chinese forces.

The writer of the New-York Times editorial charges that the Spokesman failed to give concrete evidence to support his presumption that the affair in Shanghai was caused by a well premeditated plan of the Chinese, who wanted to annihilate the Japanese there. But that is not actually the case and that the Shanghai affair is the outcome of well-considered Chinese provocations is clear to all who are willing to

study the affair calmly and dispassionately, who can deny the still memorable fact on the night of August 14, the lives of 30,000 Japanese residents and refugees in Shanghai were on the verge of a terrible slaughter when the vast number of Chinese forces vigorously attacked our Naval Landing Party, attempting to break through the thin line of our defence and cut off completely the contact between the northern sector and the Hongkow district and then annihilate the entirely defenseless Japanese civilians before our reinforcements reached Shanghai? Who can refute with confidence the very fact that the Chinese had notified all foreign residents in Hongkow district through their respective consuls stationing in Shanghai, as well as Chinese who lived in that part of the Settlement, which lies east of the Szechow Creek, including Hongkow, and urged them to move out of that district for safety by the nightfall of August 13, and that when the Chinese forces commenced attacks from both air and land the only remaining inhabitants in the attacked area were non-combatant Japanese? Suppose the Chinese succeeded in breaking through the Japanese defense-line on that night, the fate of the tens of thousands of defenseless Japanese nationals in that area would certainly have been the same as that which had befallen the Japanese men, women and children numbering about three hundred a short time before at Tsingchow. What saved them from the dreaded massacre was nothing but the courageous resistance offered by our Landing Party, such outstanding and undeniable facts should never be lost sight of by those who wield the power of the press. The Chinese are busily engaged in propaganda to influence the opinion of European and American publics in China's favour by making appeals to the humanitarian sentiment of these Western peoples. The Chinese are good

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fighters propagandists.

The New York Times editorial further casts doubt on the purpose of the concentration of a number of Japanese warships in Shanghai harbour before the outbreak of hostilities there. Our gunboats and destroyer were assembled there, of course, but these were the ships that had protected the vessels carrying the Japanese nationals who had evacuated from the upper reaches of the Yangtze to Shanghai in view of the menacing attitude of the anti-Japanese elements. We fail to find the reason why such a comment as that of the editorial writer of the New York Times is being directed against the unquestionable duty of the Navy.

Although we naturally wish to refrain from saying something on the duty of newspapers, we can not help expressing our earnest <sup>desire</sup> that a newspaper of such world-wide reputation for fairness and accuracy as the New York Times will avoid making hasty judgments on the important affair which vitally concerns a friendly Power.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, MAYASHI Kaoru, the Chief of Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 7 pages and entitled "Comment Made By The Director Of The Information Bureau In An Interview With The Foreign Correspondents Oct. 6, 1936." is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,

on this 11th day of April, 1947.

/s/ K. Mayashi  
Signature of Official

Witness : /s/ K. Urabe

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六二、情報部長 (昭和十二年)  
十月六日

支那ノ計畫的行爲ハ匿然タル事實

「ニューヨーク、タイムス」紙ハ四日ノ社説ニ於テ去ル一日自分ノ聲明ヲ  
「聲明シ恰モ日本ガ事實ニ於カザル虚虚ノ言明ヲナセルガ如キ印象ヲ與ヘ  
ントシテ居ルノハ甚ダ遺憾デアル

外務當局トシテハ自分ガ聲明ヲナス以上、個々ノ事ニツイテ一々説明ヲ  
加ヘナカツタト云フテモ、最早説明ヲ俟タナカツタ爲デアリ確實ナル事  
實ヲ證明トシテ説明シタコトハ云フマデモナイコトデアルガ例ヲナケレ  
バモ一度説明シヤウ

上場事務員ガ日本人ヲ全滅セントスル支那側ノ周到ナル計畫的行爲デア  
トノ斷定ニ對シ自分ガ何等具體的證據ヲ呈ゲナイコトヲ非難シテ居ルガ  
事實動機以來ノ経過ヲ冷靜ニ判斷スルモノハ支那側ノ計畫的挑撥行爲デ  
アルコトハ疑フマデモアルマイ

第一ニ日支衝突當初ノ日支双方ノ勢力ノ相違ヲ見ルガイイ現ニ支那軍ハ

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二、前日日本軍ハ三千ヲ出テイナイ、コンナ兵ヲ以テ計略的ニ攻  
スル爲ニガ何ニ居ルダラウ、八月十四日夜ニ行ハレタ支那軍ノ攻  
我増援部隊ノ到着ノ爲ニ、手筈ナル防禦地ヲ打切り北都  
ノ突出ト虹口トヲ完全ニ遮断スルコトニヨツテ我守備隊ヲ  
界内支那人ヲ全滅セシメントスルノ計ニ違イテ行ハレタコトハ明白  
ナ事實デアル

四、支那軍ハ蘇州ニ居ルヲ以テ蘇州河以東ノ境界内ニ居住スル  
支那人及ビ外人ニ對シ各區領事ヲ通ジ領事の報告ノ方法ニヨツテ十三  
日中ニ蘇州ノ進出方ヲ求メ、支那軍ガ攻勢ヲ開始セル時、同方面ニ強  
シタ非難同員ハ日本人ノミデアツタノデアル、故ニ若シ支那軍ノ突進ガ  
成功シタナラバ、日本人ハ完全ナル支那軍ノ包圍ニ陥リ全滅ヲ免レル  
道ハナカツタノデアル、新クシテ吾ビ強忍ナル蘇州事件ノ二ノ條が行ハ  
レタノデアル。

幸ニシテ日本人ノ生命ノ安全ヲ期シ得タノハ實ニ我陸軍ガ奮戦ク、  
支那軍ヲ退却シ、支那軍ノ兇惡ナル強行ヲ防止シ得タカラデアル、

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フ

其ガ局到ナル時、行爲ヲ以テ、千ノ日本人包圍ニ合致セントシタ  
コノ局然タル事ニシテ、世界ノ六國ハ何故正當ナル剣ヲ下サナイノダ  
カ、其ノ宣傳ニ對シテ「ヨーロッパ」人ノ人道的感情ニ訴ヘテキケレ  
ドモ、其情ニ於テハ、婦女水兒ニ至ルマデ、殺ノ惡行ヲ認ニシタソノ慘  
狀、其リヲ想ヒ起スガイイ  
夫レカラ「ニューヨーク」、タイムズ」ハ日本ガ事變直後、急遽上海ニ大進  
出ヲ集中シタノハ、奇蹟ニ似タトシテキルガ、當時長江上流在野邦人ノ引  
出ニヨリ、其民ヲ救セタ熱心ヲ顯シタルタメ、我々並ニ其恩德ガ下ニ  
シテ悉ク上ニ來テシタニ至リ、ナインデ、何事不思ハナイノデアアル。

之ガ即チ是心暗黒ヲ生ムト云フヌサ

然ルニ、其コレニ對シテ、目ヲ向ケルノハ、其體不足モ言シイ、正當ナル  
事ヲ、其シテ冷靜ニシテ、公正ナル氣持ヲ下スコトガ、大新聞ノ使命デアリ、  
其イカナル場合ニ於テモ、其事ナル言ヒヲ、憚ムコトガ「アメリカ」言、其  
ニ於テ大ナル勢力ヲ持テ、世界ノ公理ヲ、其ツテキル大新聞ノ義務デアハナイカ

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文部ノ出所館ニ成立ニシタル事

自今、本ハ外務省文部局長ノニシタル處、茲ニ添付セラレタル  
日本國ニ係ツテカレヨリ以ル情狀部長（昭和十二年十月六日）  
トニスル事ハ日之政府（外務省）ノ保存ニ係ル公文書ノ正確ニシテ眞  
實ナル事ナルコトヲ認メス

昭和二十二年四月十一日

於東京

林

右署名等ハ日之政府ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同日 於 同 所

立 官 八 浦 部 勝 馬